

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 8, line 15 with the following paragraphs:

The inventors have identified the genomic sequence corresponding to the cDNA sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 1), which is illustrated as bold text in Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO: 2). The coding sequence, including introns and exons, of *LpTFL1* is from bases 1 to 912 of SEQ ID NO: 2. Therefore, the present invention further provides an isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising the nucleotide sequence of bases 1 to 912 (SEQ ID NO: 2). Although base 1242 of SEQ ID NO: 2 corresponds to the end of the cDNA sequence, it is thought that that sequence from base 1243 to base 1624 of SEQ ID NO: 2 may comprise a polyadenylation signal. Therefore, the isolated polynucleotide fragments of the present invention may further comprise bases 1243 to 1624 of SEQ ID NO: 2 in conjunction with bases 1 to 1242 of SEQ ID NO: 2. In addition, the present invention provides a method of reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a perennial or biennial plant, the method comprising expressing a polypeptide from an isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising the nucleotide sequence of bases selected from the group consisting of bases 1 to 912, bases 1 to 1624, bases -78 to 912, bases -78 to 1242, and bases -78 to 1624, all of Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO: 2).

The inventors have also isolated a region upstream from the start codon that comprises the native promoter for the *LpTFL1* gene in ryegrass (bases -3600 to -1). Therefore, also provided in the present invention is a polynucleotide fragment which comprises a promoter with the nucleotide sequence of bases -3600 to -1 of Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~ (bases 1 to 3600 of SEQ ID NO: 2).

The inventors determined the function of the *LpTFL1* promoter by characterising the expression of *LpTFL1* mRNA in ryegrass. The results showed that *LpTFL1* is expressed in the apex of ryegrass at the vegetative stage. In contrast to *TFL1* in *Arabidopsis*, the expression of

LpTFL1 mRNA not only increases in the apex but also in the leaves (more than 25 fold) upon transition to reproductive growth. The increase in *LpTFL1* mRNA expression in leaves seems to be stimulated by flowering induction i.e. long day treatment and temperature increase. Therefore, in another aspect, the present invention provides an isolated polynucleotide fragment having a nucleotide sequence of bases -3600 to -1 as shown in Figure 3A and 3B ~~Figure 3~~ (bases 1 to 3600 of SEQ ID NO: 2), or a fragment or derivative thereof, for up-regulating gene expression in the apex and leaves of a perennial or biennial plant during conditions that lead to flowering.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 20, line 22 with the following paragraphs:

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of significantly reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a monocotyledonous plant, the method comprising expressing an isolated polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 4, or a functionally active fragment, derivative or homologue thereof. The present invention also provides a method of significantly reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a monocotyledonous plant, the method comprising expressing a polypeptide from an isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising a similar nucleotide sequence, or fragments thereof, from other plants which are complementary to the one which hybridises under stringent or moderately stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequences of the isolated polynucleotide fragments, or fragments thereof, disclosed herein. The invention still further provides a method of significantly reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a monocotyledonous plant, the method comprising expressing a polypeptide from an isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising a similar nucleotide sequence which is synthetic or artificial and is complementary to one which hybridises under stringent or moderately stringent conditions with the above disclosed nucleotide sequences, or fragments thereof. In addition, the present invention provides a method of reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a monocotyledonous plant, the method comprising expressing a polypeptide from an isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising the nucleotide

sequence of bases selected from the group consisting of bases 1 to 912, bases 1 to 1624, bases -78 to 912, bases -78 to 1242, and bases -78 to 1624, all of Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~, corresponding to bases 3600 to 4512, bases 3600 to 5224, bases 3522 to 4512, bases 3522 to 4842, and bases 3522 to 5224 of SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively.

In another aspect, the present invention provides an isolated polynucleotide fragment having a nucleotide sequence of bases -3600 to -1 as shown in Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~ (bases 1-3600 of SEQ ID NO: 2), or a fragment or derivative thereof, for up-regulating gene expression in the apex and leaves of a monocotyledonous plant during conditions that lead to flowering. The present invention further provides a method of significantly reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a monocotyledonous plant, the method comprising inserting an expression cassette into a plant host cell, the expression cassette comprising a promoter and a nucleotide sequence as shown in Figure 2, or a fragment or derivative thereof, growing the said transformed host cell in a suitable culture medium and expressing said DNA sequence to produce said protein, and wherein said expressed protein substantially reduces and/or prevents flowering in said plant.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 23, line 1 with the following paragraphs:

In addition, the present invention provides a method of reducing or substantially preventing flowering in a plant, the method comprising expressing a polypeptide from an isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising the nucleotide sequence of bases selected from the group consisting of bases 1 to 912, bases 1 to 1624, bases -78 to 912, bases -78 to 1242, and bases -78 to 1624, all of Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~, corresponding to bases 3600 to 4512, bases 3600 to 5224, bases 3522 to 4512, bases 3522 to 4842 and bases 3522 to 5224 of SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively.

In another aspect, the present invention provides an isolated polynucleotide fragment having a nucleotide sequence of bases -3600 to -1 as shown in Figure 3A and 3B~~Figure 3~~ (bases

1 to 3600 of SEQ ID NO: 2), or a fragment or derivative thereof, for up-regulating gene expression in the apex and leaves of a plant during conditions that lead to flowering.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 4 with the following paragraph:

Figure 3A and 3B ~~Figure 3~~ (SEQ ID NO: 2) illustrates the genomic sequence of the LpTFL1 gene (bases -78 to 1624) and the upstream promoter region (bases -3600 to -1), corresponding to bases 3522 to 5224 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and 1 to 3600 of SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively;